IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

[0004] These issues lead to the development of ATM Adaptation Layer ~~2(AAL2)~~ 2(AAL2). In AAL2, another layer of stream identification known as the Channel Identifier (CID) was introduced and a format devised to allow the packing of multiple voice streams sharing a common destination into a single ATM connection. Using this technique a voice stream is uniquely identified using the following naming convention, <interface_index.virtual_path_index.virtual_channel_index.channel_id>. This opens the opportunity to provide a switching function for voice flows analogous to ATM cell switching such that a voice connection could consist of one or more concatenated voice cross-connects, described as follows, <<upstream: interface_index.virtual_path_index.virtual_channel_index.channel_id>,<downstream:interface_index.virtual_path_index.virtual_channel_index.channel_id>>. AAL2 provides for the setup of ATM AAL2 connections that are configured to support up to 255 voice channels carried within or can be restricted to just one voice channel carried within. AAL2 connections can be configured as permanent virtual circuits by the operator or they can also be set up on demand as switched virtual circuits using the ATM networking layer. Given that AAL2 implements a voice network on top of an ATM network infra-structure using an overlay technique, it is natural to expect that the configuration of multiplexed connections between any two voice switching nodes involves some network engineering analysis by the operator. Inevitably this analysis will raise questions regarding how much bandwidth to assign to the multiplexed connections, what action should be taken when bandwidth is exhausted on a multiplexed connection and how to

promote efficient bandwidth utilization within these connections. An over-commitment of bandwidth can reduce network bandwidth efficiency and an under-commitment can deny service to users, particularly at peak times. Particularly, in cases where the underlying ATM network has plenty of unused capacity, service denial constitutes an error and perhaps a failure to honor the service level agreement (SLA) between the network operator and the customer.

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] Cells 160 are multiplexed over channels 140 and 145. Cells 160 may be Q.AAL2 cells. **Figure 2** illustrates exemplary Q.AAL2 data cells 160 as implemented over the structure of ATM cell relay. A ~~Q.AAl2~~ Q.AAL2 cell 160 may be composed of AAL2 Convergence Packet Sub Layer (CPS) packets 210. Each CPS packet 210 has a three byte header 220 containing an 8 bit CID, a 5 bit header error correction field (HEC), a 6 bit length field and a 5 bit User to User Indication (UUI) field. CPS packets 210 have a maximum payload 230 of 45/64 octets of data.

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] Referring back to **Figure 1**, multiple cells 160 are shown on channels 140, 145, 150, and 155. CID=x cell 160 on multiplexing channel 140 is a new call flowing into switch 170 from switch ~~11~~ 110 as indicated by the arrow 190. Switch 170 attempts to route CID=x cell 160 to switch ~~130~~ 115 (as shown by arrow 195), but finds that multiplexing channel 145 has no available bandwidth. Overflow occurs, and switch 170 adds a non-multiplexing connection 155 to cary CID=x cell 160.